

A NEW COMBINATION IN *GETHYLLIS*

***Gethyllis namaquensis* (Schonl.) Oberm., comb. nov.**

Klingia namaquensis Schonl. in Rec. Albany Mus. 3: 178 (1919). Type: Cape, Namaqualand, without precise locality, *Kling* s.n. (GRA, holo.).

This elusive species was first collected by the Reverend H. Kling of Steinkopf in the Richtersveld, northern Cape, who sent two bulbs to Schonland at the Albany Museum in Grahamstown in 1918. Schonland placed the species in a new monotypic genus *Klingia*, which he named in honour of the collector. He separated the genus from *Gethyllis* on the grounds of the six filaments which are fused at the base and expanded into a wide cup or corona.

The species was again collected in October 1978 near Rosh Pinah in South West Africa/Namibia by

Mr D. S. Hardy (No. 4924). It flowered at the Botanical Research Institute in November 1979 and afforded the author the first opportunity to study live flowers.

The androecium of *Gethyllis* is extremely variable, the stamens doubling or trebling in some species. Wilsenach, in Plant Life 21: 82–88 (1965), investigated the idiograms of *Klingia* and *Gethyllis* and found them to be identical, but he did not sink *Klingia* under *Gethyllis*. However, it is clear from the evidence that the two genera are congeneric. *Klingia namaquensis* has, in fact, for some years been known as *Gethyllis namaquensis*, but the combination has not been published. This omission is now rectified.

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Only one plant was found and collected at the time of discovery. It made slow progress in its new environment at BRI under the care of Mr D. Hardy. When it eventually flowered in April–May 1979, it proved to be undescribed. The small size of the stems

and flowers, their delicate pink colour and the evenly 10-toothed outer corona are distinctive features.

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